

young people who were really trying to get the Clean Air Act to be put in place and have corporate polluters be held accountable.

As I transitioned into elected office in the Michigan Legislature and became a State representative, within a few months of being a State representative, there was a corporate billionaire who owned a bridge, and there was this whole, huge controversy around whether or not he had a permit or whether or not he was following the environmental impact statement process that is there on the Federal level.

This is a community where one in five children has asthma. This is the community I was raised in. It was the first issue that came before me as a member of the State legislature in Michigan, and I was at a loss. Many people said, Congressman Dingell, The Dean, has historical, institutional knowledge of this company, and you should sit down with him and talk to him.

I was completely taken aback and could not believe that Congressman Dingell reached out to me right away and also got my residents at that time a hearing, which you don't usually get with the U.S. Coast Guard, a hearing that happened in a public school right in the center of the neighborhood that was directly impacted.

We had over 500 residents that finally felt heard, many of them giving testimony after testimony of why a corporation needed to follow the rules, needed to follow the processes for the EPA, the Federal Highway Administration, and the number of entities that were involved in possibly a new bridge crossing.

□ 1900

What I also incredibly loved is I remember sitting on a panel about immigration reform with Congressman Dingell at the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. As a city and State rep, I remember coming in to the capitol, driving about an hour or so. It was a very cold day, and I believe it was snowing. I was disheveled, as I usually am, and I looked to him—if you know Congressman Dingell, Mr. Speaker, he always had the cane, and he would put his cane right between his two knees and just sit there, and he would look up from his glasses.

I looked at him, and I said: Congressman Dingell, I just don't know how you have been doing it for so long. This is so hard because they lie.

He looked at me, and he said—I just loved what he said, because he turned to me, and he always called me young lady—he said: Young lady, there is a saying in India that if you stand still enough at the riverbank—stand still—that your enemies will float by dead.

I have no idea why, but that calmed me because he was teaching me stillness, but he was also teaching me patience. I just felt so much better afterward.

We had an incredible panel that uplifted so many of our immigrant neigh-

bors. Again, from someone who has such a huge and powerful presence and from me, this young activist who carries a bullhorn in her car, and I could sit next to this amazing, incredible person and feel heard, feel seen, and be on a panel with him and serve with him in so many powerful ways around our environmental justice issues.

I will forever remember the humbling experience as his last ride in front of the Capitol, to have been serving now in this Chamber that he served for 59 years, 11 different Presidents. I was telling my 13-year-old son about him. He said: I want to look him up. I want to find out.

I said: You need to, because he is a rarity.

I hope to honor his tremendous legacy by doing the same thing he did, because I know there will be a generation after me that may be different and may have a different style, and I never want to ever shush or silence them in any way and I want them to be heard just like he did for me.

So I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for teaching me so much. I am just so pleased to have been serving by his side in many ways, but also that he served me and my family for so many years.

I thank Congressman KILDEE so much for allowing me to speak about my dear friend, Congressman John Dingell.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TLAI.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who served a very long time—most of his career—here in the House side by side with Congressman John Dingell. Congressman BRAD SHERMAN is a member of the Financial Services Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee and a good friend of Congressman John Dingell.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was in my office watching these tributes to the dean, and after a while I couldn't just sit there and watch. I realized this is an hour devoted to remembrances from his colleagues from Michigan, and I thank Congressman KILDEE for allowing a humble Californian to participate.

America is healthier because of John Dingell. Less tobacco is smoked now than decades ago because of John Dingell. Our air is cleaner. Our water is cleaner. We are healthier, and we are closer to completely universal healthcare than we have ever been in our history because of John Dingell.

Not only is our environment healthier and our bodies are healthier, our country is healthier because of what John Dingell did to move forward the fight for civil rights in this country.

John is the dean of the Michigan delegation, but he belongs to us, too. He is the dean of the House. He is the dean of the House for all time. I doubt that any Member will ever match his record of tenure, but I know that no Member

will ever match his record of accomplishment.

So we have had so many new Members come to the House this year wondering how to learn, how to be an effective Member, and how to serve their country. They could not do any better than to study the life of John Dingell in his nearly six decades of service to this country and to this House.

I am so pleased that DEBBIE DINGELL continues to serve the district, a district served by John and John's father. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for inviting a California member and taking just a bit of his time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will lay Congressman John Dingell to rest, and it will be a painful time. But we can take a lot of comfort in the contribution that he has made, not just to this body but to the quality of life in this country; and as individuals with our own perspective, our own experience here, we can take some comfort in knowing that his wife—the love of his life—will continue his legacy by serving here with us side by side.

Our hearts go out to her. I know this is a very difficult time for the Dingell family, but especially for DEBBIE. They loved one another. They were inseparable. They were one. I know this will be a difficult time for her. We stand with her.

Mr. Speaker, John Dingell served with 11 Presidents and 11 Speakers of the House. Mr. Speaker, 2,419 Members of Congress served with him. He served 21,551 days in this House and cast over 25,000 votes. But as he would say and has said many times: It is not the longevity that counts, it is the way you serve.

He served in a way that brought honor to this Congress and made it a better institution. He led in a way that made this country a better place. And I know for each of us who came to the floor and each of us who served with him, he not only made us better Representatives of the people whom we work for, but he made us better people.

We honor John Dingell's life and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2337

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 11 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair